

# Identifying and Revising Run-on Sentences

**EXERCISE A** Decide which of the following groups of words are run-on sentences. If a word group is a correct sentence, write C for *correct* on the line provided. If it is a run-on sentence, use proofreading symbols to revise it by (1) making it into two separate sentences, (2) using a comma and a coordinating conjunction, or (3) using a semicolon.

**Example** \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Bears can live in many different habitats<sup>Ⓐ</sup> these animals occupy mountains, forests, and arctic wilderness.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Brown bears include the grizzly and the kodiak, the largest brown bear is the kodiak.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Did you know that kodiak bears weigh as much as 1,700 pounds, they can grow to a height of ten feet?

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. In the wild, bears can live longer than thirty years!

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. A bear's sense of smell is more developed than its hearing or sight.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Females give birth to as many as four cubs, the cubs stay with their mother two or three years.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Many people are afraid of bears, encounters with bears are actually infrequent.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Grizzly bears are solitary animals, they do not want to interact with people.


\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Generally, bears attack only when they are surprised or when they are protecting their young.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. In bear country, people should always store food and garbage properly, bears could be attracted by the smell.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Never try to outrun a bear, it can run more than thirty miles per hour!

## Identifying and Revising Run-on Sentences (continued)

**EXERCISE B** Decide which of the word groups in the following paragraph are run-on sentences. If a word group is a correct sentence, write *C* for *correct* above the item number. If it is a run-on sentence, use proofreading symbols to revise it by (1) making it two separate sentences, (2) using a comma and a coordinating conjunction, or (3) using a semicolon.

**Example** [1] Albert Einstein was one of the greatest thinkers of the twentieth century.  he changed the way people view the universe.

[11] In Munich, school was too rigid and boring for young Einstein he did not do well.

[12] However, Einstein showed a talent for mathematics, at the age of twelve, he taught himself Euclidean geometry. [13] After finishing secondary school, he entered the Federal Polytechnic Academy in Switzerland, he did not like the teaching methods there. [14] The academy frustrated him he could not learn in a way that interested him. [15] Einstein chose to educate himself, and he missed classes often to study physics on his own.

[16] His professors had low opinions of him, he graduated anyway in 1900. [17] In 1905, he published a paper on physics the University of Zürich awarded him a Ph.D. for this work.

[18] In the same year, he published four more papers that presented new thoughts on the nature of light and other important concepts. [19] Physicists resisted Einstein's ideas at first, eventually his general theory of relativity was confirmed through observation. [20] Einstein achieved international recognition, in 1921 he received the Nobel Prize in physics.